

State Bar of California, Office of Governmental Affairs

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2005-06 LEGISLATURE CONVENES, RECESSES

The two houses of the Legislature each met for less than two hours Monday, December 6, to swear in new members, elect officers, and introduce the first few bills of the 2005-06 Legislative Session. Then both houses recessed until Monday, January 3.

As expected, Senator [Don Perata](#) (D-East Bay) was elected President pro Tem on a unanimous 40-0 vote, notwithstanding a recent FBI probe into certain of his activities and associates. Senate Republican Leader [Dick Ackerman](#) (R-Irvine) also was unanimously re-elected to his post by his caucus.

In the Assembly, Speaker [Fabian Nuñez](#) (D-Los Angeles) and Republican Leader [Kevin McCarthy](#) (R-Bakersfield) were re-elected unanimously to their respective posts.

The only controversy in either house occurred in the Assembly, where Republicans balked over voting for the adoption of revised house rules because they had not had the opportunity to review the changes. As described by Assm. Rules Committee Chair [Cindy Montanez](#) (D-San Fernando), author of the resolution ([HR 1](#)) to adopt the rules, the changes would extend the current limit on the number of bills a member can introduce during a session to include resolutions, and would make it more difficult for members to amend bills on the Assembly Floor late in the session. The resolution ultimately was adopted on a partisan 44-33 vote.

DAVE JONES NEW ASSEMBLY JUDICIARY COMMITTEE CHAIR

Freshman Assembly Member [Dave Jones](#) (D-Sacramento) has been appointed chair of the Assembly Judiciary Committee, replacing Ellen Corbett who was forced to retire from the Legislature due to term limits.



A former public interest lawyer with Legal Services of Northern California, White House intern, staff attorney to former U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno, and two-term Sacramento City Councilman, Jones will be the first freshman lawmaker ever to chair the Judiciary panel.

Jones is a graduate of DePauw University, Harvard Law School and Harvard's Kennedy School of Government.

PERATA CONTINUES OVERHAUL OF SENATE COMMITTEES

Senate President pro Tem [Don Perata](#) continued his overhaul of Senate committees during the last week.

- Senator [Liz Figueroa](#) (D-Fremont), chair of the current Business & Professions Committee, has been appointed chair of the newly-expanded committee on Business, Professions & Economic Development. Perata also announced that he will ask the Senate Rules Committee to approve the creation of an as-yet-unnamed committee "that will focus on the effective administration and delivery of government services as well as government reform and modernization issues" to be chaired by Figueroa. It was unclear whether Figueroa would chair both committees, or whether the new committee would be merged with the BP&ED Committee.
- Newly-elected Senator [Carole Migden](#) (D-San Francisco) was appointed to chair the Senate Appropriations Committee, replacing the recently-departed Sen. Dede Alpert. Migden, the immediate past chair of the Board of Equalization, had chaired the Assembly Appropriations Committee during her earlier tenure as a three-term Assembly Member.
- Sen. [Dean Florez](#) (D-Shafter) was appointed chair of the Governmental Organization Committee, replacing Sen. [Ed Vincent](#). Florez previously had chaired the Banking, Commerce & International Trade Committee, which recently was merged with the Insurance Committee chaired by Sen. [Jackie Speier](#) (D-Hillsborough).

DEADLINES UPCOMING

- Monday, January 3, 2005 – Legislature reconvenes.
- Monday, January 10 – Governor must submit budget.
- Friday, January 21 – Last day to submit bill requests to the Office of Legislative Counsel.